

“Building Our Sense of Community”

Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 3, Number 18 Shelton State Community College Nov. 30, 1999—Dec. 8, 1999

'Tis Better...



Father Jerry Deasy (R) of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa meets with well-wishers and volunteers for the blessing of the Habitat house worked on by Shelton students and church members

'Tis better to give than receive...

A young single mother of two sons, ages four and one-year, will spend this holiday season in a new home, thanks to a cooperative effort between Shelton State Community College and Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa.

Valerie Morrow grew up in Tuscaloosa and is currently working as an agent for Productive Industrial Insurance Company. Morrow found out about the Habitat for Humanity program through a friend. After working on several other

Habitat homes, she has spent the past months working on her own home.

Saturday, Nov. 13, Morrow's new home was dedicated as a part of the Habitat for Humanity program in Tuscaloosa.

Ground was broken on the new house last spring. Students from Shelton State Community College's carpentry program framed the house under the direction of instructor Dave Sanders. Members of Holy Spirit Parish in Tuscaloosa worked together to complete the project.

"This is an excellent program,"

said Morrow. "I've worked on the grounds and have helped with the sheetrock. I know my neighbors who are also living in a Habitat house. I know I'll meet others after we move in."

The new Habitat house is at 830 35th Street in Tuscaloosa.

'Tis the season for caring and sharing. It is the time of year again when people start to dig into their pockets and give from their hearts to help those who are less fortunate and some Shelton State students are a part of the gift giving.

This year Shelton State organizations, Student Government Association, Circle K, Ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa and *The Courier* are participating in the stocking stuffers, a program created by the Salvation Army to fill stockings for needy children or adults. The groups have committed to stuff 38 stockings.

Kim Cockrell, president of the SGA, says the organization is excited about helping the less for-

Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the *Courier's* ads

These companies are our special friends. Let's support them!

For advertising information call the publisher at 391-2278

Fax (391-2427), e-mail (courier@shelton.al.us) or drop off your Millennium Essay in the Courier office today!

C'mon. Send 'em in!

The deadline is today—Nov. 30—for the Millennium Essay Contest. Essays must be turned in to the Courier office by Nov. 30. All entries must be turned in with the author's identity labeled on an index card separate from the essay.

Essays must be at least 800 words, but no longer than 1200. Your essay can be about anything as long as it deals with the new millennium. It can be a positive or negative view.

A panel of distinguished judges will select the essay that is the most-thought-provoking concerning what the future may bring. Prize packages include cer-

tificates from Cypress Inn, Taylorville Diner, La Fiesta, Foxfire Grill, Red Lobster, IHOP, A Novel Approach, World of Science, and Sam Goody.

There will also be a party held in the Courier office at noon on Dec. 3 with the reading of the winning essay. There will be plenty of free food, so do not forget to join us.

The winning essay will be published in the *Courier* in the last issue of the millennium, Dec. 9. So, put your thinking caps on and start writing down your ideas. Your essay could be the winner and you could be the recipient of great prizes.

'Tis cont'd on pg. 3



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FREE WANT ADS

The *Courier* has begun a free Classified Ads section. If you have any announcements you would like to share, including apartment rentals, personal items for sale, books for sale, etc., stop by the Courier office and drop off the notice in the folder outside the door. The Courier office is located on the second floor of the West Wing in Room 2319, near the Victor Poole Learning Center. All notices must be 20

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If interested in purchasing books for the spring semester, call Kim at 758-2068 or 507-4136

Commentary

What makes Christmas so special anyway?

By Kim Eaton

My memories of Christmas are very special. My parents made sure I had lots of presents under the tree, but we also helped people through the holiday season.

My mother never failed to remind my brothers and me that Christmas was not all about "you" and what you wanted. And that is a lesson I'm trying to remember now more than ever, less than two years after my mother's death.

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, there might be a little girl wishing

for a doll, but knows that Santa will not be visiting her. Or there might be a young boy, lying in a hospital bed, who may not be here for Christmas. My mother often commented that people are so busy wanting and doing for themselves, they forget there are others who are hurting and need help.

My mother had a very giving heart and instilled in my brothers and me a gift and a treasured lesson: never take for granted what you have and how blessed you are.

So this year, as you are out buying presents or decorating or baking, take a minute to really look around you. If you see an elderly neighbor

who is alone for Christmas, consider inviting her or him to spend the holiday with your family. Or if you see a family with little or no income, find a way to make their Christmas brighter.

My mother is gone now; this will be the second Christmas without her. But I believe she looks down on me and Chris and Bill and Jack and urges us to help others, to be compassionate and giving.

And I honestly believe she is urging me to get you to think about the spirit of Christmas—the season of giving.

Courier Christmas Open House and Millennium Essay Reading—Dec. 3 at noon in Room 2319. Everyone is welcome!

Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to 12 more issues this school year: one in December and January, Two each are scheduled for February, March, and April. One each month is scheduled for May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the *Courier* editorial office at 391-2406. You may also visit the *Courier Online* at http://www.shelton.cc.al.us/~courier/courier_main.html

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Beware of the Bull

When you are out on a late fall or winter night, be sure not to wear red, for there is a bull running about! It is one of the most familiar and easily recognizable constellations for this time of the year -- Taurus, the "Bull!" Taurus is one of the twelve constellations that the ecliptic runs through, so I'll bet that the name rings a bell!

To find Taurus simply look high in the eastern sky after dark for a large "V" shaped group of stars.

The "V" is turned on its side and is pointing south. The Bull's head is the "V," and if you extend both sides of the "V," you will come to two stars that are the tips of the Bull's horns. One of the stars in the "V" is a bright, red star and is the red eye of Taurus.

The constellation Taurus has an additional treat that we have already learned to find -- a beautiful open star cluster, the Pleiades! Just above the "V" of Taurus, you will find this grouping of seven bright stars that we commonly

call the "Seven Sisters." The cluster of stars actually contain about three dozen stars and is beautiful with the unaided eye or with a pair of binoculars. Many Native American tribes thought of this group as seven young braves in the sky.

Keep looking up during the clear, cool nights of late fall and winter and find the most famous bull of all time -- Taurus! Be careful that he does not come charging at you with his bright, red eye!

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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'Tis Better cont'd from pg. 1

tunate. "Most of us get caught up in our own Christmas celebration that we forget the true meaning of the holiday season." Cockrell goes on to say that the SGA is trying to demonstrate that the benefits of giving outweigh temporary material gifts. The SGA is sponsoring ten of the 38 stockings.

If you or an organization you belong to has a hankering to do something special this holiday—something to instill the old *It's a Wonderful Life* feeling of giving to others, then the Salvation Army has an option to fit anybody's charitable game plan, beginning with their classic Adopt a Kettle program.

• **ADOPT A KETTLE** or be a **BELL RINGER**—your organization can adopt a 5-pound, six-ounce kettle for a day, a week, or the entire Christmas season. You will also get a chance to do something as All-American as anything, something seen in hundreds of Christmas movies: ring a bell and wish people a hearty "Merry Christmas!" The

money raised from your kettle call goes to fund the needy with food, clothing and other emergency needs. For more information contact the Kettle Coordinator at 758-2804

• **HOST A CORPORATE ANGEL TREE**—your company or

758-2804.

• **STOCKING STUFFERS**—go by the Salvation Army at 2902 Greensboro Ave. and pick up some stockings to fill with trinkets and special treats for the holiday. Businesses, church groups or other organizations can decide how many stockings to stuff and what age group you want to assist. Stockings must be filled by Dec. 10. Some gift ideas are coloring book and crayons, cards, yo-yos, and various toiletries. Contact the Project coordinator at 758-2804

• **PROJECT FOOD**—get together with your group and decide to provide enough food for a family of four for a week. You should obtain the boxes or bags from your local grocery store and fill them up with baking chick-

ens, can of green beans, peanut butter, cornmeal, tea, flour beans, corn, tuna and the like. Your bounty will be used at Christmas time and in the Army's food pantry. For more information, contact the Project co-

ordinator 17 748-2804.

• **DRESS BEARS or DOLLS**—if you have sewing skills and a kind heart, plan to go by the Army soon and pick up a number of cuddly animals to dress up. This would just have to be a lot of fun for an organization to see what fanciful outfits individuals could produce. Call early and make arrangements with the Salvation Army. For more information, contact the Project Coordinator at 758-2804.

• **PROJECT GOOD NEIGHBOR**—"The measure of society is the concern it has and the help it offers to people in need, to people who cannot help themselves," the Salvation Army says in its promotional material. "The Salvation Army in Tuscaloosa meets the most basic, urgent human needs. If your busy schedule does not allow the time to participate in any of these other projects, but you would like to help financially, be a good neighbor and send us your check and we will put it to good use." Donations should be sent to:

The Salvation Army
P.O. Box 2470
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-2470.

If you or an organization you belong to has a hankering to do something special this holiday—something to instill the old *It's a Wonderful Life* feeling of giving to others, then the Salvation Army has an option to fit anybody's charitable game plan

department can set up a tree with the names, sizes and wants and needs of children who without you may not have a very happy Christmas. For more information, contact the Angel Tree Coordinator at

Courier Student Poll

58% of Shelton students say they will have to work during the holidays

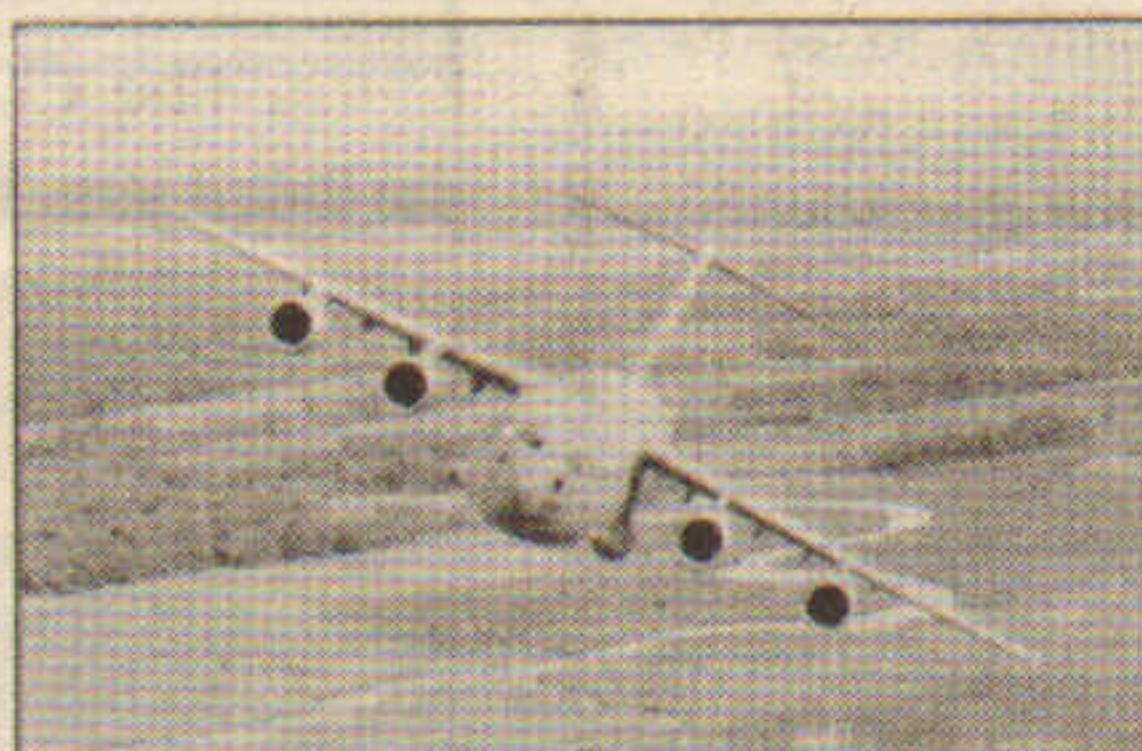
11% of Shelton students say they will attend a holiday entertainment production this year

The top examples are The Nutcracker, Handel's *Messiah* and *A Broadway Christmas*

25% of Shelton student say they have worked for a charity like Angel Tree during the holidays

The top examples are Toys for tots, United Way, New Life shelter, Red Cross Angel Tree and the VA Hospital

Pollster: Brooke Lin



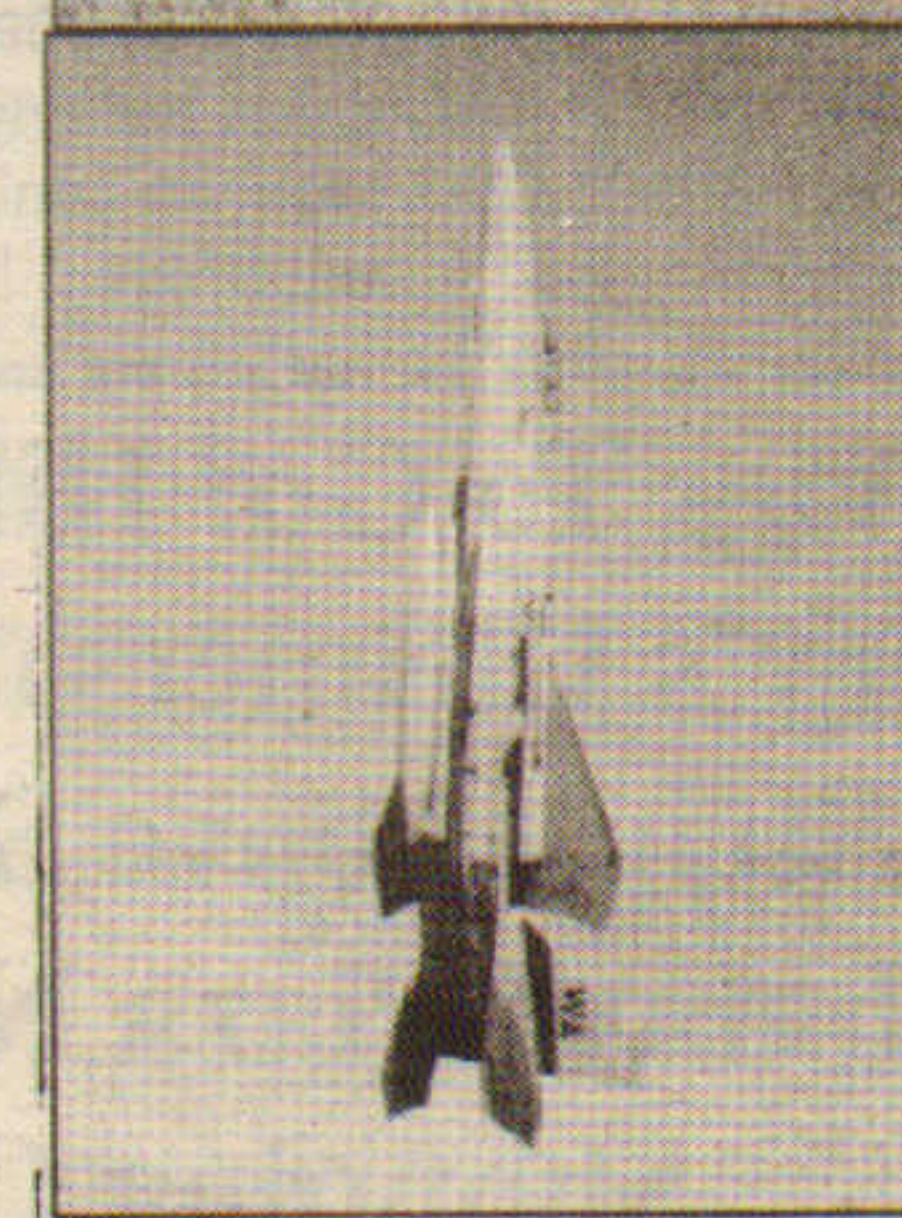
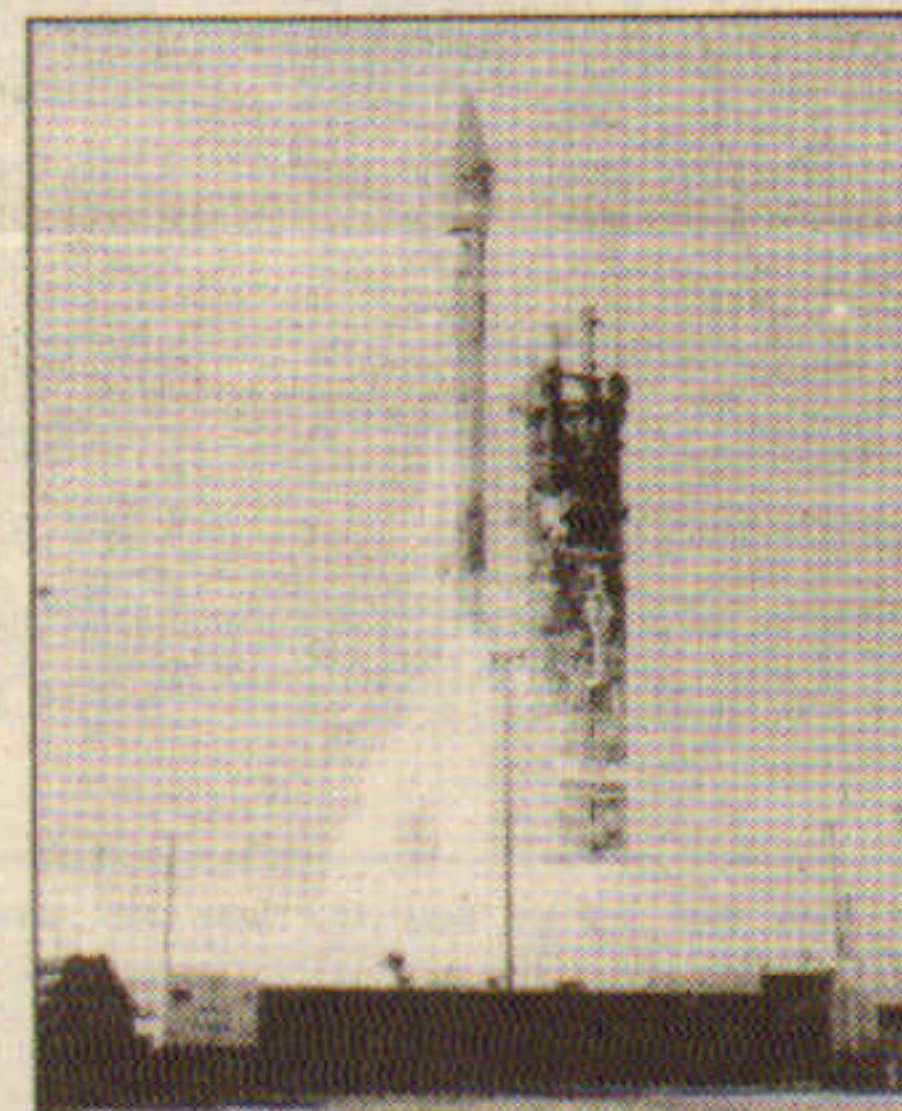
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The Entertainment Page

Sponsored by MOVIES TO GO in the Hillcrest Center

Here's where you pick up that X-mas feeling...

By Charlie Parish

Christmas is right around the corner. It is time to decorate the house in mistletoe, hang the stockings above the fireplace and invite all your loved ones over to celebrate the season. Everything is planned perfectly before your friends and family arrive, except how to keep them entertained. If you're staying in Town for the holidays, this is not a problem.

Tuscaloosa has nearly limitless options to keep you and your loved ones entertained while waiting for good old St. Nick. Our very own Shelton State Theater and Theatre Tuscaloosa are putting on two excellent Christmas shows. The first show ran Nov. 18-28 and was entitled "A Broadway Christmas."

The production, directed by Paul Gregory Nelson, was held in

Shelton's Bean-Brown Theater. Shelton State theater instructor Michael Carr said, "The play is a musical slash comedy that will give the audience a warm feeling inside and get them in the holiday mood." The play includes such classic Christmas songs as "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Abby Holmes, UA student commented, "With songs like these in a Christmas play, you really can't go wrong!"

Another Shelton State performance at Bean-Brown is the all-time Yuletide classic *The Nutcracker*, running December 3-12. The show will include the Tuscaloosa Community Dancers and will, without a doubt, attract much attention. When asked which students would like more, "The Nutcracker" or "A Broadway Christmas," Carr remarked, "The Nutcracker is a ballet of sorts and a classic. The Broadway Christmas, on the other hand, is a

comedy and a little lighter. Both the plays are different, so it's hard to compare. I think students as well as their family's would be pleased with either performance."

If it's theatrical shows you enjoy, another classic about a boy and his Red Rider B-B gun, *A Christmas Story*, is being shown in Downtown Tuscaloosa Dec. 9-14. UA student Adam Hayes said, "I've always loved watching the show on television each year, I can't wait to see it in person." Shelton State student Jeremy Hall remarked, "A Christmas Story is a fun story to watch. It brings back memories of when I was a kid making out a wish list."

Downtown Tuscaloosa is also the site of the Tuscaloosa Annual Christmas Tree Lighting held on December 6. The ceremony starts at 5:15 p.m. at the Downtown Courthouse. This will be followed by the Tree lighting at 5:30, and a performance by

Bean-Brown brought us Broadway

By: Jessica Smith

It's that time of year again, and Theatre Tuscaloosa kicked off the holiday season with the spectacular hit show, *A Broadway Christmas*. Filled with a number of cherished Christmas songs, joyful dancing, and happy merriment, this production definitely brought the spirit of Christmas to Tuscaloosa.

With over thirty Christmas songs in the show, the talented cast of only six sure did sing their hearts out. Being on spotlight for the show gave me the opportunity to enjoy all the wonderful Christmas melodies night after night. Some of my favorites included "Winter Wonderland," "Skateboardin' Santa," and "Carol-

ing, Caroling," where the audience members got to join the cast in singing several classic Christmas carols. Another highlight of the show included the "Merrie Melodies" game show, where six lucky audience members got the chance to take the stage and be contestants.

The professional cast of *A Broadway Christmas* come from different parts of the U.S., including Maryland and Michigan, and will continue to spread Christmas cheer as they take the show on the road and travel to different cities. The hilarious midget elves, and tap-dancing Santas will certainly be an entertaining hit to audiences all around. Christmas is definitely "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

**Courier Christmas Open House and
Millennium Essay Reading—Dec. 3 at
noon in Room 2319.
Everyone is welcome!**

the Bellringers. The M.C. for the show will be Bob Wooldridge.

An event at The University of Alabama's Moody Hall, entitled *Hilaritas*, will run Dec. 3-4. Director Sandra Willet said the show was like a musical performance put on by the UA Jazz Band and the University Singers directed by Thomas Woolf. If you are someone interested in music or just love Christmas songs, *Hilaritas* is a must-see. According to Willet, this event has a great turnout of people each year it has been held.

One of the most well known events taking place in Tuscaloosa is The

Singing Christmas Tree held at the First Baptist Church in Downtown Tuscaloosa. The Director is the Church's Minister of Music Ron Wilson. This will be held Dec. 10-12. Bart Box, former UA Student said, "The Singing Tree is one of the most touching Christmas events I have seen. After seeing it, you'll leave in the Christmas spirit."

So if you're in the mood for Christmas cheer, Tuscaloosa is definitely the town to be in for the season. Until next time, "Happy holidays! Merry Christmas! God bless!"

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Meeting the needs of others is the goal of United Way

By Lacye Taylor

The United Way was founded in Denver in 1887 by a group of community leaders trying to meet the needs of the many pioneers moving west.

The United Way has a mission to increase the organized capacity of people to care for each other. And today it has grown into approximately 1,400 community-based organizations. In 1998 the many volunteers across this country, as a whole, raised

\$3.4 billion.

Shelton State has its own connection to the United Way through William P. Aldridge. For over five years he has been helping to maintain these same goals. This year alone the organization has superseded its original goal of \$8,650.14 by \$909.14.

Although the United Way was founded many years ago there is still some confusion as to what it really is. It is not just simply one organization but instead a way that several organizations receive fund-

ing. "Some people say I don't want to donate to the United Way, I want to give to the cancer society. I say 'hey OK,'" said Aldridge.

Some of the organizations that benefit from the United Way are The American Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Hospice of West Alabama, the Salvation Army, Turning Point, YMCA.—Barnes Branch and Focus on Senior Citizens. For every \$1 contribution made, \$90 goes to the support of an organization.

The most rewarding thing for Aldridge about holding this position is knowing that he is helping to ensure that people are well-fed, well-clothed and receiving help with persistent problems in their everyday life.

Although most contributors give an average of \$119.50, Aldridge said, "Don't apologize for money given to charity because it does not matter if you give \$1 or \$300, as long as it's from the heart."

2000 Miss Shelton State Pageant
will be held Jan. 15, 2000.

Circle K members learn much as they travel to Huntsville for Education Rally

Tony Humphries, Natasha Williams, Chris Miller, Samantha Hastings and Amanda Caranna were very excited as they boarded the school van, driven by Dean Humphrey Lee with Nora Lee accompanying, on Nov. 12. These six Circle K members were heading to Huntsville where they would spend three days at a Membership Education Rally.

According to Caranna, "It was a great experience for all of us. There was something for everyone ranging from officers to new and old members. Everyone attended workshops and socials."

Some of the socials included a pajama party, ice skating and Circle K television game shows. "It was fun and exciting learning new things and meeting people throughout the state," said Caranna.



Circle K members getting through a workshop (L to R): Natasha Williams, Samantha Hastings, Amanda Caranna, Tony Humphries, (sitting) Chris Miller

All-USA Academic Team nominees representing Shelton State announced

Kimberly Cockrell and Jennifer McGuff were overcome with joy when they discovered that their applications had been selected as the two students to represent Shelton State Community College in the All-USA Academic Team.

The application packet was detailed and included biographical

information, a 500-word essay, three letters of recommendation, transcripts and extracurricular activities.

Three independent judges were chosen to select the nominees and Cockrell and McGuff were notified Nov. 22.

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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—

Buccaneers still running and gunning, but not D-ing enough

Attending a Shelton State basketball game—either men's or women's—will allow you to witness as much offensive fireworks as you could possibly want. The men's team, for instance, scored more than 100 points in each of its first five games, a streak that came to an end only in Pensacola, Fla. over the Thanksgiving holiday when the host team held them to 92.

Defense is another story for the 5-2 men's squad.

"Actually we seem to play defense pretty well until the last few minutes when we seemed to get tired or something," said first-year player Brandon Vaughn. "We seem to do everything well to me. It's just that we sometimes come up a little bit short."

Head coach Barry Mohun thinks the team has a bunch of things to work on. "But they are all things that we can correct—like blocking, out, helping out, switching and communicating," said Mohun. "I'm pretty pleased with the progress of the team, but we still have a ways to go. Individually, I've

been pleasantly surprised by the play of Rodney Bias who has come in and really helped us. He played very well in Florida on both sides of the ball."

The women continue to play an exciting, fast-paced brand of ball, but their coach is not too pleased with their overall progress—yet. Madonna Thompson said of his 2-5 team, "We are not doing too much well yet. We run, but we're not shooting very well, not rebounding too well. We need to work on the fundamentals."

UPCOMING GAMES

Women's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 2 Wallace-Selma HOME 5:30
Dec. 4 Beville State Fayette 5:30
Dec. 6 Southern Union HOME.....5:30
Dec. 11 Miss. Gulf Coast
HOME 5:30

Men's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 2 Wallace-Selma HOME.....7:30
Dec. 6 Southern Union HOME.....7:30
Dec. 9 Jeff Davis HOME.....7:30



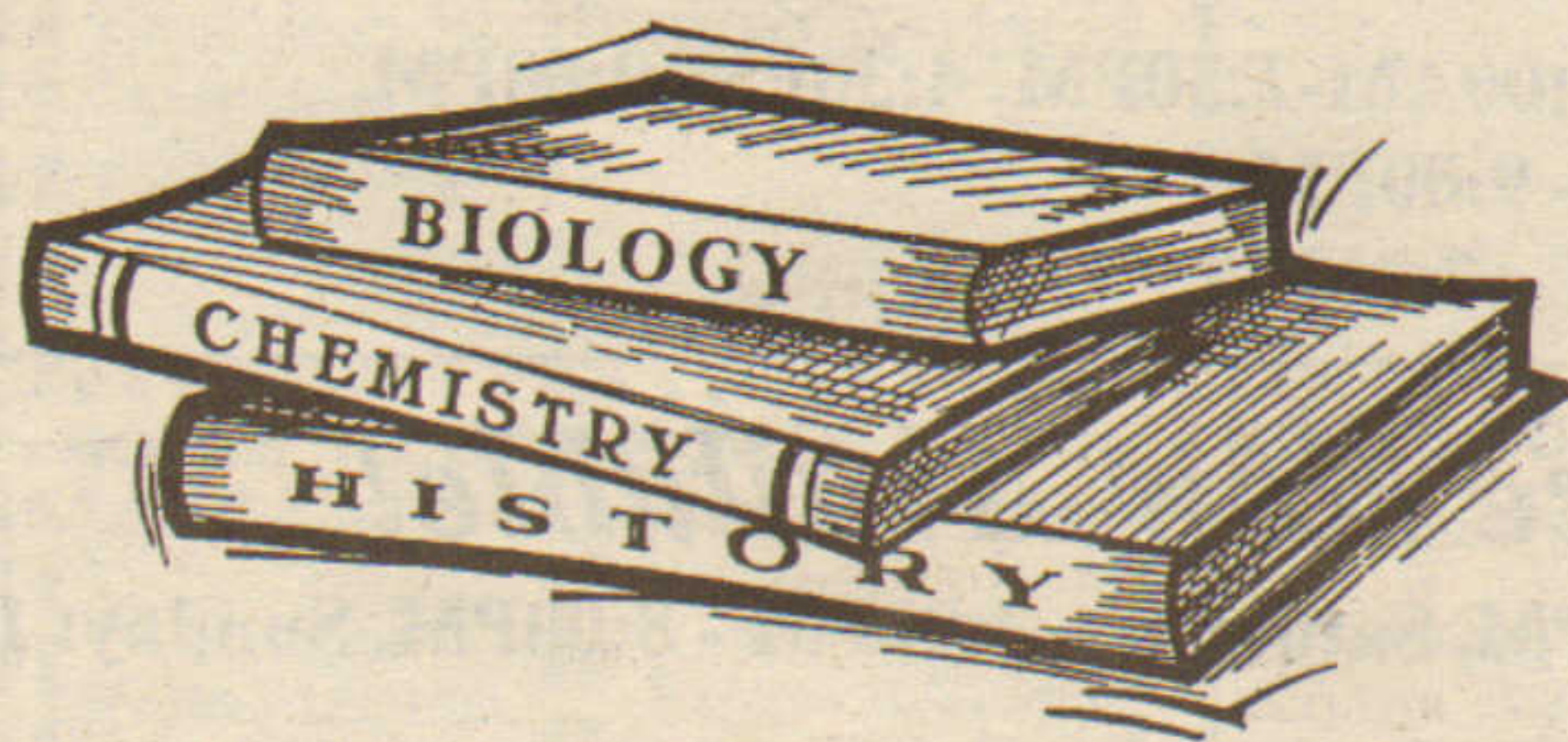
Big in Florida

Two Shelton State Buccaneers came up big in the Pensacola tournament. Derrick Wright (L) made 16 3-pointers in three games and Rodney Bias had a triple double

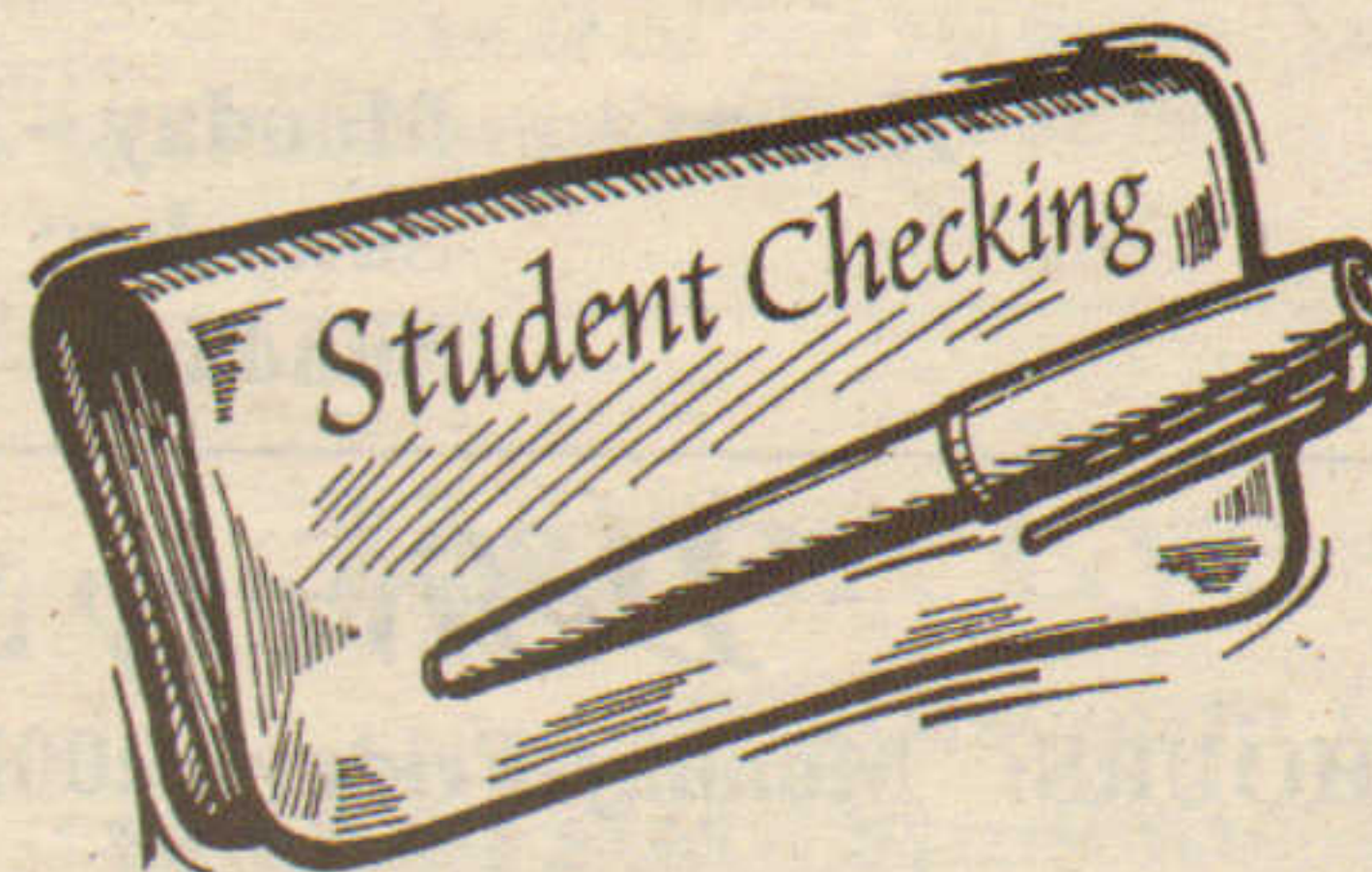


The 1999-2000 Shelton cheerleading squad is an added attraction to bring fans out for the Buccaneers. Members are (Bottom-Top, L-R) T.J. Chandler, Meredith Booth; Candice Traylor, Lynn Cain, Amy McGee; Camille McKissick, Kristy Atkins; Hannah Golden, Michelle Hamner, Rissa Orange, Bambi Bigham; Katie Compton, Leah Kirkland

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What's happenin' with clubs at Shelton State this year?

Club Unity Meetings

Phi Theta Kappa is working closely with the Salvation Army Stocking Stuffers and have asked all clubs to sponsor a certain amount of stockings. The support has been

outstanding with most clubs sponsoring at least one and as many as 20 stockings.

Circle K is helping sponsor a canned food drive. It's known as F2K -- Food Bank 2000. The

goal is to get 2000 or more canned food. Circle K is also asking the different clubs to participate in this effort. There will also be a stand for anyone to put canned foods in. Please help in this endeavor.



Circle K will be selling candles beginning the week of Nov. 29. There will be a table set up in the atrium. Don't miss this great opportunity for a wonderful Christmas present.

Circle K has also completed the book drive. They were working closely with the library and the reading department at Shelton State to collect books for Brewer's Porch, a home for disturbed and abused children, ages 10 - 15. Some of the younger children's stories collected will be taken to the Shelton State Child Development Center.

Circle K will also be sending around a money jar at every meeting to collect coins for IDD, iodine deficiency disorder. So, Circle K members make sure to bring your change.



Phi Theta Kappa is currently working on setting up a fall initiation. If you believe you have a 3.5 or better GPA, please contact Mrs. Ryan or Mrs. Grote.

Phi Theta Kappa is very involved with the Angel Tree, sponsored by the Salvation Army, this Christmas.

Another project that will take shape over the Christmas holidays is the book that Phi Theta Kappa will write for the Regional Write -- A -- Book Contest. This contest is where each chapter writes and illustrates a children's story. The regional goal is to compile the winning stories, publish them into one book and distribute them to elementary schools throughout Alabama.

Student Government Association



SGA is staying fairly calm after their big involvement with Homecoming. There are not any major plans as of right now.

SGA is sponsoring stockings for the Salvation Army Stocking Stuffers. They are also participating in the canned food drive sponsored by Circle K.

Baptist Campus Ministries



If you are interested in Bible studies and a chance to fellowship with students who share your same interests, Baptist Campus Ministries is the place for you.

The meetings will be on Wednesdays at 11:30 in Room 1413. If anyone has any interest, contact Clint Wortham, the student minister, at 391-9123.

Any other clubs wishing their news in the paper should contact the Courier at 391--2406.

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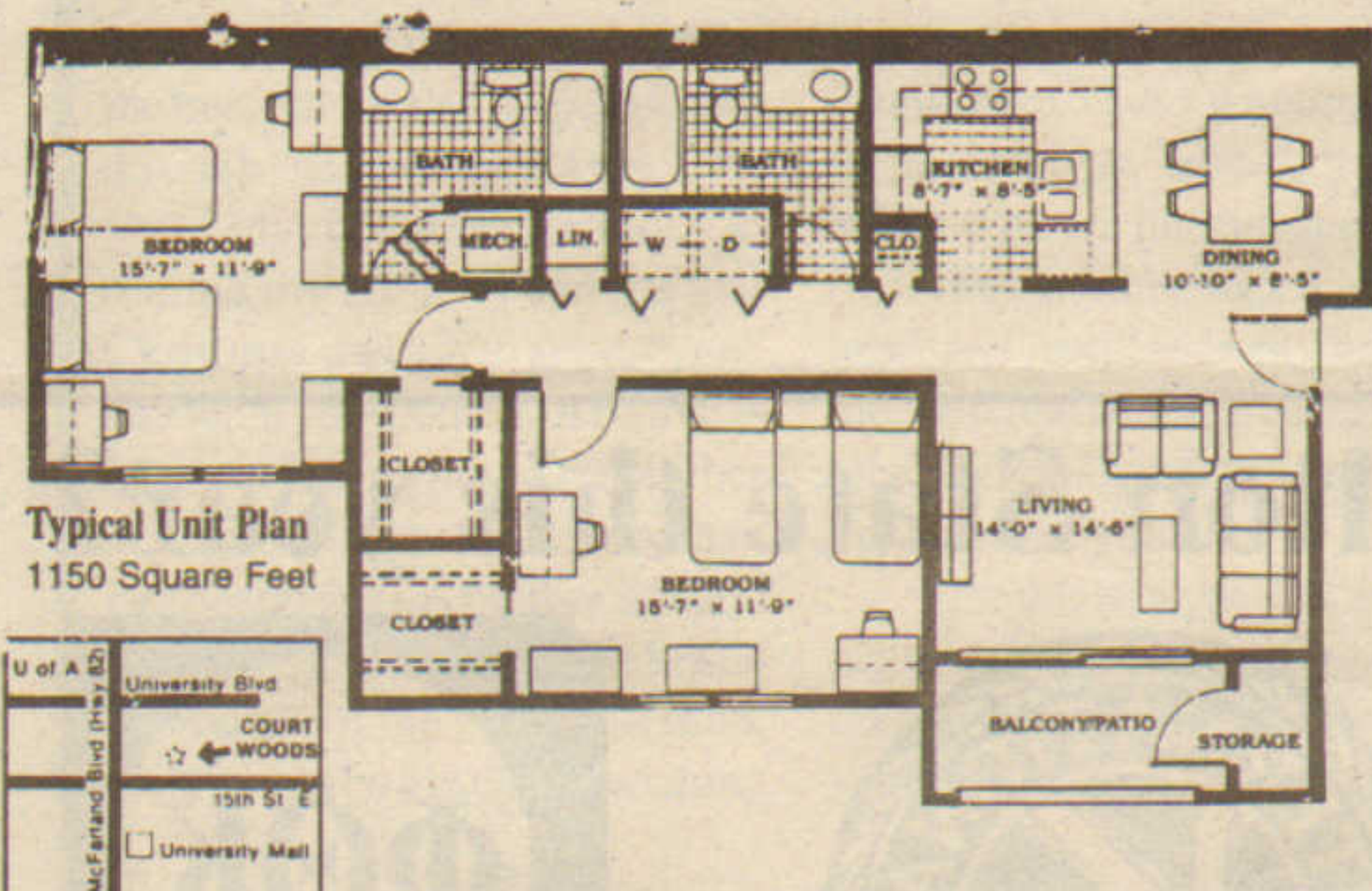
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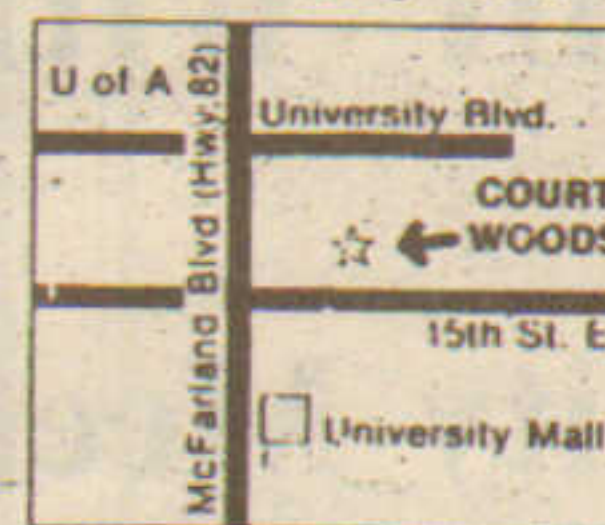
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